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MENU



May 22, 2015

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FROM THE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES

From Associate Dean Nancy Brown:

...And the Dean can wear pretty shoes: a love letter to SEHS

In the fall of 1999, I was fortunate to obtain a faculty position here at Oakland University in what was Curriculum, Instruction and Leadership (CIL). I remember standing in my windowless, mold infested office in O'Dowd and wondering what I was supposed to do in this wonderful room. Truth be told, I had no idea how to begin. I have the same feeling yet again as I sit in my sunlight filled office in Pawley Hall, writing this opening to our newsletter. How do I begin to say goodbye to the faculty and staff of SEHS? I've realized that it is not the programs, or scheduling, or, to my surprise, the students I will miss; rather it is the faculty and staff of SEHS. The people who work in Pawley are a rare kind of group, collaborative, devoted to our students, and dedicated to making the world a better place. On August 1, I will begin my new position as Dean of the School of Education at the State University of New York, College of Old Westbury. I am excited about my new adventure that will not only fulfill my career goals, but will also bring me home to New York City.



In my time at Oakland, I have had the privilege of working with five different deans and five separate associates. I witnessed the strengths of each and watched in awe as Bob Maxfield brought us together as a community when we needed it most.

For this, my final newsletter to SEHS, I would like to share some of the lessons I have learned not only in the deans' office, but from all of you. These are the lessons that I will bring with me as I set out upon a new journey to become "the Dean" at a new school:

The dean sets a tone of a building and creates the community as welcoming or off-putting. The dean remembers that it is the faculty that creates programs (governance) and that it is the staff that makes them happen. A good dean supports that process, honoring the people involved and remembering to laugh. A good dean articulates the joint, co-created vision of the school and publically tells the school's story (that is really how one fund-raises). A good dean sees what others may not see in themselves and helps the person obtain their dreams, their ideas. A good dean knows that mentoring may mean a kick in the bottom, a day off to write, an ear to listen, or sharing a handkerchief. A good dean remembers to read all the words and think before reacting. A good dean admits to being wrong and apologizes. Being a dean is not about the personal ambitions of the dean but about the ambitions of all the folks that work in the building. A good dean understands that people come to work to do a good job and do not leave their lives at the door of the building. A good dean genuinely enjoys hearing about wedding dresses, dogs, and children. A good dean reaches out to help those who struggle, with careers, with illness, with children, with life. A good dean delegates what she does not know how or does not have the time to do and trusts that her staff will shine. A good dean knows whose shoulders she can cry upon. A good dean can wear pretty shoes and not a tie.

It is my hope that I have honored these lessons over the past three years as the associate dean. I hope I leave Oakland a kinder, more welcoming place. Thank you for giving me the time and space to grow into my role. I have loved working at Oakland and thank all SEHS for supporting and helping me achieve this goal and making my last fifteen years a joy.

With love,
Nancy

CELEBRATIONS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

DENNIS WADE
PAWLEY LEAN INSTITUTE

LEIGH DZWIK
OFFICE OF THE DEAN

ROBERTA WELLS
COUNSELING

SHANNON FLUMERFELT
ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP

If you do not wish to have your birthday announced, please contact James Silvestri at jmsilves@oakland.edu (<mailto:jmsilves@oakland.edu?subject=Birthday%20exclusion>).

ABOUT THE SEHS BULLETIN

Welcome to the SEHS Bulletin, where faculty and staff can share news and celebrate the wonderful things happening in SEHS. The bulletin is the perfect place to share information about your publications and awards, special projects and committee news, as well as announce events. All are welcome to send items for inclusion. If you choose to do so, please ensure that your items are print ready, that you include all related links, and that you have permission to publish any photos being submitted. Please put "SEHS Bulletin" in the subject line and email your information to:

sehs@oakland.edu (<mailto:sehs@oakland.edu?subject=SEHS%20Bulletin>).

If you have questions about the bulletin, feel free to email James Silvestri at jmsilves@oakland.edu (<mailto:jmsilves@oakland.edu?subject=SEHS%20Bulletin>).



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